very strong reasons and when a considerable body of devotees are by reason of customary, religious and social duties necessarily associated with the day are thereby prevented from attending office or place of work on a particular day."

Government Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.

* 666 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of bed-strength in the Government Headquarters Hospital at Tiruchirappalli for treating in-patients;

(*b*) what was the daily average number of in-patients during the months of January and February 1953; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of beds and when it will be done?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(*a*) The present bed-strength of the Headquarters Hospital at Tiruchirappalli is 275.

"(*b*) The daily average number of in-patients treated in January 1953 and February 1953 is 444 and 488 respectively.

"(*c*) A proposal to increase the bed-strength of the Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, is under consideration.

Murder cases in Rayachoti taluk.

* 667 *Q.*—SRI Y. AUDINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many murders took place in Rayachoti taluk in the calendar years 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(*b*) how many were detected;

(*c*) how many of them were reported to be committed by hirelings;

(*d*) how many of these cases ended in acquittal and how many of them ended in conviction; and

(*e*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take to check this sort of crime in this area?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(*a*) to (*d*) A statement [a] showing the particulars asked for is placed on the table of the House.

"(*e*) Villages where hired assassins are reported to reside are being visited by the police regularly and they are being watched, for action being taken under section 110 (*f*), Criminal Procedure Code."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 655 infra.